GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1565
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
SCHEMES FOR SCAVANGERS
ALIA NARENDRA RAVEENDRA ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out fresh schemes namely 'Sanitary Mart and Swachhkar Vimukti Yojana' for relieving scavengers from their traditional occupation and to rehabilitate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for each Scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of scavengers benefitted under each scheme during the last three years and as on date?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SMT. SAMBHA SINDHIA)

(a) & (b) The Ministry has a National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) which is implemented by the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations or the States where the Corporations have not been established. The scheme provides for training-cum-production centres for scavengers to enable them to take up alternate occupations. The scheme provides for 100% central assistance to State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations for training of scavengers. For rehabilitation, central assistance is provided as subsidy and part of the Margin Money Loan. The details of the scheme are at Annexure-I.
The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his inaugural address to Convention of Members of Parliament belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, held in December 1999, underlined the urgent need to abolish the inhuman practice of carrying night soil as head load and to provide alternate occupation to the persons engaged in this occupation and their dependents by March, 2001. Effective and sustainable rehabilitation of scavengers in alternate occupations, Sanitary Mart is a cooperative of around 20-25 scavengers that stocks sanitary related items besides taking up production of sanitary items like water borne flush latrines. These items will be sold by the Sanitary Mart to municipalities, PHEDs, Cantonment Boards, Railways, Airports, etc. The Sanitary Mart will subsequently also take up solid waste disposal of hospitals, restaurants etc.on agency basis and the female members of Mart may also take up stitching of uniforms of safai karamcharis and students. The Sanitary Mart, therefore, aim at not only promoting suitable alternate occupations to scavengers on sustainable basis but also generate demand of wet latrines especially in areas enclosed by scavengers.

(c) The year-wise central assistance released to States during last three years under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) is given in annexure-II

(d) The number of scavengers financially assisted for training as well as rehabilitation under NSLRS during last three years and the number of scavengers so far proposed to be covered during 2000-2001, is given below:-

Year Number of scavengers assisted under NSLRS for
training rehabilitation
1997-98 13403 30102
1998-1999 10000 30000
1999-2000 NILL (anticipated) 150452 (anticipated)
2000-2001 10000 (proposed) 29871 (proposed)
(as on 27.11.2000)

Annexure - I

Statement-I in answer to part (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1565 for 29.11.2000 by Shri A. Narendra and Shri Ravindra Khaparde

NATIONAL SCHEME OF LIBERATION AND REHABILITATION OF SCAVENGERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

The National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents, which was started in March 1992, provides for financial assistance for training and rehabilitation of scavengers in alternate occupations. The details of financial assistance provided under the scheme are mentioned below :-

Assistance for Training :- The Scheme provides for training of scavengers in the age group of 18-45 years in the training institutes of Central Government, State Governments, Local Bodies and Non Governmental Organisations as per 1995RR norms. The training period should, however, not exceed a duration of 6 months. The stipend provided to a scavenger during training period is upto Rs. 500/- per month. Besides this, the training fee per scavenger payable to the training institutes is upto Rs. 500/- per month, honorarium to trainees upto Rs. 150 per month per scavenger and one time tool kit allowance upto Rs. 2000/- per scavenger. 100% central assistance is accordingly provided.

Assistance for Rehabilitation :- Towards rehabilitation of scavengers, projects costing upto Rs. 50,000/- per beneficiary are financed by way of a prescribed financial package comprising of 50% subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15,000/- per project, 15% of project cost as Margin Money Loan by the Government of India through Central Government and State Governments in the ratio 85:15 and the rest through bank loan.